

Atty. Dkt. No. 041673-2054

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the entire paragraph beginning at Page 1, line 5 through Page 1, line 7 with the following paragraph:

-- This is a continuation-in-part of, and claims the priority of, U.S. Patent Application, Serial No. 09/620,174, filed on 07/19/00, still pending, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of, and claims the priority of Serial No. 09/060,543, filed on 4/15/1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,167,888.--

On page 16, at line 7, deleted "NGF."

On page 30, add the words --What is claimed is:-- to appear before Claim 1.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

A. Support for Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to clarify that the neurotrophin-expressing vectors are administered in the invention to ensure that the neurotrophin is expressed in proximity to targeted cells. Support for the "proximity" claim limitation is found in the Specification at page 2, lines 20-22. See also, with respect to knowledge and understanding in the art at the time the application was filed vis-à-vis diffusion distances travelable by expressed neurotrophins in the brain, Conner, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.*, 98 (4): 1941-1946 (February